

REMARKS

This Reply amends Claims 7, 9, 13, 16, and 17. Claims 7-9, 11-14, 16, and 17 are pending.

The previous Office Action invited a method step limitation that described the reheating step now claimed in independent claims 7, 9, 13, 16, and 17. Office Action at Paragraph 10. In response, what is now claimed is that “wherein the plurality of voids are formed in the assembly [panel], which is preheated, and subsequently closed within a forming mold with controlled pressure sufficient for expanding the assembly [panel] to conform it to the mold.” The voids in Sorrells are not so formed; the Sorrells’ voids are formed by mechanical punching. Sorrells’ mechanical punching of its carpet does not show or suggest heating a preheated assembly within a mold to create the voids as claimed.

Applicant: Price, et al.
Application No.: 09/266,155

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the invitation to make such a claim Amendment. If the Examiner believes that further discussion would advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned invites an interview, particularly by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Price, et al.

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